

BRONZE MERCURY TOPIC OF PAPER

FEB 14, 1922 T.H. STAR

Work of Art on Tower of Bank
Makes Interesting Subject
for Literary Club.

Referring to the bronze Mercury on the tower of the McKee National bank building as one of the outstanding productions of art in the Wabash Valley, C. T. Jewett, in his paper read before the Terre Haute Literary club last night, called attention to the fact that there appears to be no record of how or why Terre Haute possesses this statue. Even the long-time residents who recall when it was placed, said Mr. Jewett, appear to have forgotten the incidents which had to do with bringing the monument to Terre Haute.

The paper on Terre Haute's contribution to the world of art listed other important pieces of sculpture and mentioned the work of Terre Haute artists that has gained world recognition. The reason he suggested for the lack of appreciation of the Mercury was that it appeared to have been the result of the inspiration of one man and that the public generally was inclined to the opinion that it was merely an ornament to a building.

Terre Haute Artists Listed.

In an entirely different class Mr. Jewett put the memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the civil war because every citizen of the county contributed to the erection of the monument in the court house park. The men who planned for 33 years for the erection of the soldiers' monument, he said, would not be forgotten because records of the organization are public property and have been permanently recorded in the history of the community. He said, however, that not all really appreciated the soldiers' monument, which is counted one of the most beautiful of its kind among the large group of similar memorials.

Referring to a recent publication which included "Who's Who in Art in Indiana," Mr. Jewett said the following were credited to Terre Haute: Alfred N. Austin, sculptor and architect; Mrs. Bernard E. Ball, formerly Caroline Paddle, sculptor; Mrs. Blanche Canfield Bruce, landscape artist; Anna H. Kusner Coudert, miniature painter; James R. Goodkins, painter, teacher; Ross B. Griffith, teacher; Eleanor Louise Guernsey, sculptor, teacher, now at James Millikin university; Lindley Husford, painter, now at Lynne, Conn.; Idelle Kidder, designer, craftsman; Janet Scudder, sculptor; and William T. Turnan, painter, teacher.

Referring again to the same publication, he said the author credited Terre Haute with the following pieces of sculpture: Bust of Colonel Richard W. Thompson by Alfred N. Austin, in the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial library; Browning Hande in bronze by Harriet Steamer; Hebe, plaster copy, in the library; Giovanni di Bologna's Mercury, copy in bronze, tower of McKee bank; soldiers' monument.

Many Pieces Omitted.

"The foregoing list omits several really important pieces of sculpture," said Mr. Jewett. "The one of greatest value, because of its historic associations and the sculptor, is the Wood Nymph in the library. This plaster statue which graced the Indiana building at the Columbian exposition, is the work of Janet Scudder, who also made the figure of 'Justice' for the headquarters of Illinois. The Wood Nymph was made possible through a contribution of \$1,000 by Terre Haute women. When the exposition closed this statue was brought to Terre Haute and since has occupied a prominent place in the library.

"Another piece of sculpture in the library is the bust of Senator Daniel W. Voorhees, executed by the son of the 'tall sycamore' of the Wabash," James Paxton Voorhees. The bust was presented to the city by friends of the late senator. It is counted a fine likeness of the man who served the state in the United States senate.

Mr. Jewett also referred to the Claude Herbert memorial fountain, the fountain in Steeg park, the shaft and sundial on the Normal campus and the statue on the dome of St. Benedict's church. He reminded of the new position of the Hugsey lions and mentioned as the only historic tablet of public connection the bronze plate on the Fort Harrison centennial monument. There was only a suggestion in this connection that Terre Haute might well give attention to erecting monuments and memorials to honor its distinguished citizens and mark its historic places.

No Local Records.

The paper reviewed briefly the work of Giovanni di Bologna, whose masterpiece of the early Italian renaissance was the bronze Mercury, originally placed in the garden of the Villa Medici, and of which the Terre Haute statue is a copy. Where the copy was obtained, Mr. Jewett said, is not revealed in any Terre Haute record available.

Mr. Jewett expressed the belief that the Mercury had been obtained by the late Frank McKee, who spent a period of his vacation in Italy in 1875, the year the bank building was erected. The only incident of the placing of the statue still clear to the memory of Terre Hauteans, said Mr. Jewett, is that it aroused criticism because of the proposal to erect the nude figure of a man in a public place. This appears to have been quieted by the assurance that it would remain in its lofty position, too far from the passing crowd to offend the most sensitive.

"The public did not contribute to provide this work of art," continued Mr. Jewett. "By the same line of reasoning the public has no claim on the statue. The figure was placed in a more prominent position than it could have been given in an art gallery or in one of the public parks. If its erection had been attended by the palaver and atmosphere of the art critics it now would be a reminder of traditions of the social elite of the period of the late seventies. But it has counted for little more than the lightning rods that pierce the blue of the Indiana sky from the cornices and gables of hundreds of commercial buildings. It stands as it has stood for more than 46 years as the messenger of the gods, as the god of commerce and as the god of eloquence."

History of Monument Shown.

The Terre Haute soldiers' monument, Mr. Jewett said, was made possible through an appropriation by the county which was added to a fund started by a group of soldiers of the civil war in 1866. The actual organization of the monument movement was in 1872 and 33 years later the memorial was completed and dedicated. This monument was the work

of Rudolph B. Swartz, who made the wonderful piece of statuary for the Indiana soldiers' monument. Of historical interest is the fact that the Terre Haute monument is of the same general design as the Tupperanba battle monument at Battle Ground. The Terre Haute monument has five figures representing service men of the civil war while the Tupperanba monument has but one figure, that of General Harrison.

"Of the officers of the original monument association none survives," said Mr. Jewett. "Several lived to see the realization of their dreams, but the passing years have been attended by the trumpet, who has sounded 'pass for me' another of the veterans. However, the names of those who planned and builded are recorded in the permanent records of the memorial association. There is no fear that the passing of 40 years will efface the memory of their contribution to Terre Haute."

Bologna, Giovanni di

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Art Community Affairs File **ARTISTS - W.V.**

Local man earns \$15,000 AVA award

NOV 11 1984

Bert Brouwer of Terre Haute was among 10 artists from across the United States named recipients of the prestigious fourth annual Awards in the Visual Arts.

Brouwer, assistant professor of art and director of the Turman Art Gallery at Indiana State University, was chosen from other artists representing a four-state area. His works will be coordinated into a touring exhibition along with the other nine artists.

In addition to the exhibition that tours three cities, Brouwer will receive a tax-free award of \$15,000.

The winners were chosen from 500 candidates nominated by a nationwide network of 100 art professionals. A five-member national award jury reviewed approximately 5,000 slides and named one winner from each of the 10 geographical areas.

The exhibit will tour Buffalo, N.Y., Winston-Salem, N.C., and Philadelphia beginning next May.

The program is sponsored by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States; the Rockefeller Foundation; and the National Endowment for the Arts, and is administered by the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem.



"Artist's Studio": Among Bert Brouwer's winning works

Brouwer Bert

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TRIB-STAR 12-21-49

Peter Bruning Is Preserving Local Scenes

By EILEEN JENSEN

Vanishing Terre Haute buildings are being preserved on canvas by Indiana State University professor Dr. Peter Bruning, artist and linguist, whose one-man show of 32 paintings, sculptures, drawings, and pastels is on exhibition at The Etc. Art Shoppe, 1417 Poplar St., until Dec. 29.

Paintings of "Third and Wabash", "View From the Courthouse", "Fifth and Oak", and "Sycamore and 7th St." reveal Bruning's interest in capturing the waning architectural landmarks of the 19th Century in Terre Haute.

"Some homes have very fine architecture," Bruning said. "Especially those with cornices along the roof. Many buildings downtown have windows painted shut. They will disappear. I feel nostalgic toward Terre Haute."

His view from the steps of the courthouse looks South toward Memorial Hall. The aeroplane parked on the courthouse lawn is shown.

"Lilli's Cafe at 5th and Oak fascinated me," Bruning revealed. "There is a 'For Rent' sign on one side, a 'For Sale' sign on the other. No one cares. It is closed. I tried to capture a mood."

The view of Sycamore at 7th St. shows a university dormitory in the background. "This happens to be my parking lot," faculty-member Bruning said. "They just removed the house to the right. I have a feeling others will disappear soon." He thinks he may be more aware of this phenomenon because he is a European, born in Amsterdam, and it is the cities which seem to him to make America different from any other place in the world.



"GIRL AND CAT"

Charcoal by Peter Bruning

Three larger cities are represented in Bruning's work at The Etc. Shoppe. New York, Pittsburgh, and Chicago are subjects which stimulated him to paint. Bruning's cityscapes are easily recognizable, and yet his style is somewhat expressionistic — not so much concerned with perspective, but rather suggesting space through colors and their relationships. He also uses linear construction to create atmosphere in his paintings.

Several portraits are among the art works in the Bruning show. He thinks of himself primarily as a portraitist, but the cityscapes crowd in on him. He also exhibits some abstract paintings.

Peter Bruning received his art training at Amsterdam, in Paris, France; Berne, Switzerland, and at Indiana University. His master's degree and doctorate are from the University of Amsterdam. He teaches German Language and German Literature at Indiana State University, having come to Terre Haute 13 years ago. His home is at 208 Potomac.

In addition to the current one-man show at The Etc. Art Shoppe, Bruning has had a recent one-man show at the Hoosier Salon in Indianapolis. His art work has won several prizes. His exhibition credits include the Indiana Artists Show, Indianapolis; Paris Art League, Paris, Tri-State Show, Evansville, Tippecanoe Regional, La-ayette, Wabash Valley Exhibition, Terre Haute, 500 Festival and Hoosier Salon, Indianapolis.

Peter Bruning's one-man show at The Etc. Shoppe is the first one-man exhibition to be held at the new location of this art enterprise which is under the direction of Mrs. Jaunita Haney. The Etc. Shoppe is open seven nights a week, from 7 to 10 p.m., Mon., Wed., and Fri. From 9 to 5; Sat. from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

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